Canons of Construction

VOLUME 38, NUMBER 7 | THE LAW STUDENTS' NEWSPAPER | MARCH 22, 2007

TWO MC'S AND A MICROPHONE

MARK FACUNDO (3L) & LIZ LIU (3L)

The following is an interview conducted after the Grad 2007 banquet, with the two MC's at that event, Mark Facundo and Elizabeth Liu.

What was your reaction when you heard you were going to be Grad MC?

EL: I woke up from a nap, checked my email, then I jumped up and screamed like a girl.

MF: I…[hangs head] also screamed like a girl. A little one. Then I ran to tell my mom, who lamented the lack of qualifications in MC's these days. Then I cried, again like a little girl.

EL: I immediately looked who my MC partner would be, sighed, then went back to sleep.

What did you do to prepare for your role as MC?

MF: We conducted extensive research into each of the speakers.

EL: Did you know that one time this guy bought some magic beans, planted those beans, and climbed up to Warren's house? The guy narrowly escaped, but only because Warren fell down… again.

MF: Yeah, another interesting fact is that Dean Percy wrote the Magna Carta, Charter of Rights and Freedoms, and the script of X-Men 2. He wanted to play the role of Professor Xavier, but Patrick Stewart beat him in an arm wrestle and he was unwilling to shave off that magnificent coif.

EL: Rawwwwr!

You two are probably the funniest, smartest, and most popular… I'm sorry, I can't read this question.

MF: Just read the question, Canons-monkey.

…I…which of these characteristics helped you get voted in the most?

MF: [nods approvingly]

EL: Like anything, it was a combination of things, including those you mentioned and my ability to eat everything in sight, ensuring little to no leftovers.

I think people appreciate the fact that you avoided toilet humour during the banquet.

EL: I think that it's important to maintain the decorum and sophistication of a law event, and jokes that appeal to the lowest common denominator bring us all down.

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Grad Committee Recap

Grad Committee 2007 (3L)

The story of grad committee 2007 begins way back in the spring of 2005, when six brave (or stupid, depending on how you look at it) individuals decided to "run" for positions on the committee during the LSA elections. The whole purpose of the grad committee is to raise money to set off many of the costs of organizing the grad banquet.

Our first task was hosting Law's a Beach at the beginning of our second year. The baseball tournament was great, the weather was good, and we ate lots of dino-sours and drank lots of beer. The most memorable portion of the event, however, was Erin Baker's incredible success at selling after-party tickets on the street outside of Hudson's.

Next up was the "Over the Hump" FABS, and St. Patrick's Day to round off our second year. Our third year events started with a bang at the Halloween party at Overtime. Thank-you to everyone who supported Grad-2007 by buying tickets and drinks at all of these parties!

Law Wear is traditionally our biggest fundraiser, and this year was no different. A huge thanks to everyone for their patience with the back-ordered items. Worthy of note is the introduction of bootie shorts into the law wear line-up, a first for law grad committees throughout history.

The grad banquet was held this past Saturday, March 10 at the Crowne Plaza hotel. All of the speakers were fantastic, everyone looked wonderful, and overall the feedback has been that everyone had a terrific time. We all hope that you had as much fun as we did.

Thanks again for all your support and congratulations to the class of 2007!

Two MC's and a Microphone

...Continued from page 1...

MF: Poo.

EL: [giggles]

If they could have served any food at the grad banquet, what would you have wanted?

MF: KFC and some prosciutto.

EL: KFC, wrapped in prosciutto, and to add a little class, served between 2 pieces of foie gras.

MF: ...Why do you always do that?

EL: Do what? Everything you do, only better?

MF: I hate you.

EL: I hate you...more.

What is your fondest law school memory these past three years?

MF: There was this one time when the school was invaded by these floaty things called Dementors that made things really cold, like nipple-pokey cold, and I saved the school with my courage and with the help of my two best friends.

EL: That was Harry Potter, dumbass.

MF: ...Damnit!

EL: For me, it was walking into this magnificent building for the first time. It's gone steadily downhill since then. Except for when I won 3rd place at the Scholar's Karaoke Competition in 2nd year.

MF: An Asian? Singing karaoke? I've never heard of such a thing.

EL: You're a jerk.

Any parting words for the graduating class of 2007?

MF: To quote the Fish Tales pinball machine in the Gavel, "Winners don't use drugs." Ironically, I think Mike Lazaruk was "under the influence" when he got that top score.

EL: I like puppies and kittens. Wait, what was the question? I'm hungry again. This interview is over.

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Canons of Construction

VOLUME 38, NUMBER 7 THE LAW STUDENTS' NEWSPAPER MARCH 22, 2007

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Our sincere apologies to anyone we may have forgotten.

Canons of Construction is the official Law Student Newspaper of the University of Alberta Law Faculty. Canons' principal objectives are to provide equitable and judicious coverage of issues and events germane to Law Students at the University of Alberta and to provide an open forum for the free exchange and expression of thought, opinions and ideas.

All law students and interested parties in the legal community are encouraged to contribute submissions, provided that contributions are accompanied by name, student number and telephone number. Canons reserves the right to edit submissions for content, length, and legality. Canons will not publish materials deemed by the board to be racist, sexist, homophobic or libelous. Ideas and opinions expressed in Canons do not necessarily reflect the views of the Canons board, although sometimes they do.

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Reflections on the Class of 2007

Professor Ronald Hopp

When he was a small boy, I took Marshall to the Storyland Valley Zoo where, for some time, we stood before the enclosure of Lucy the Elephant. Then Marshall raised his arm, pointed and said, "A bird." He had seen the sparrow in the tree behind Lucy, but he did not see Lucy.

You will forgive me if I am a little like Marshall as I write about the class of 2007. Like him on occasion, I believe that the small things are often the most memorable.

I will remember the students in the class of 2007 who always thanked me for attending their events. FABS, the baseball tournaments in the fall, the Carbolic Smoke Ball and their graduation dance. I should have thanked them for all the pleasure that I derived. If life is a two-way street, as many say, then most of the lanes in my street have been going my way.

I will remember the students in the class of 2007 who organized and participated in Cuts for the Cure. With hair like mine, can I be blamed for looking forward to having my head shaved? But Cuts for the Cure provided much more than a free haircut. It gave me and all of the others who took part a chance to belong to and do something important.

I will remember the students in the class of 2007 for their three years of work for the Law Show. An amazing number of three-year certificates were given out and, yes, I too was honoured to be included. The class of 2007 always did what it could to include everybody.

I will remember the students in the class of 2007 who sincerely apologized for asking questions in my classes (even questions that I could answer!) and equally graciously thanked me for the little attention that I was able to give to them. The students in the class of 2007 were the first or second group to pay differential fees for all three years. Yet they still thank us.

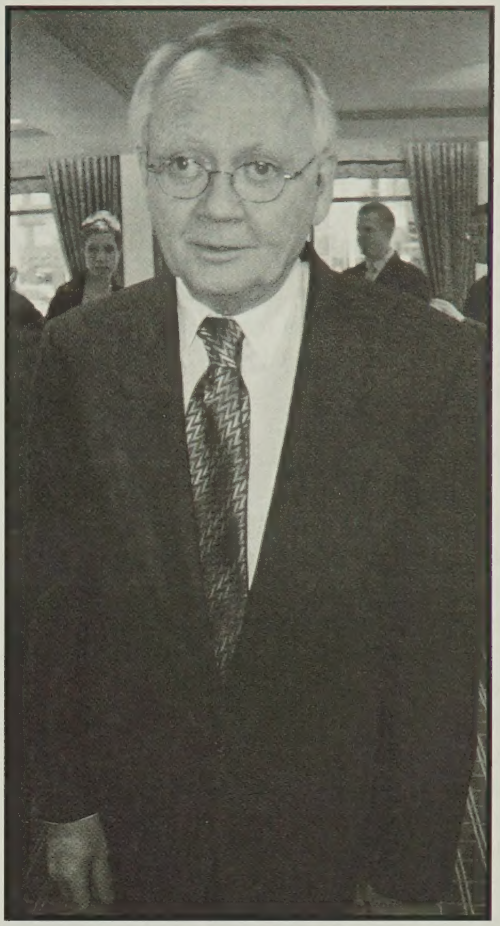
I will remember the students in the class of 2007 for their work with the many groups that have taken root in the law school. It seems to me that they did more than work. They appeared intent on preserving these groups for the benefit of later classes. The group that comes immediately to mind is our fine rugby team. It seems that the Golden Bearristers have only a few executive positions and a great number of dedicated members. I overheard one conversation in which plans were being made to create a position for a second-year student who, it was thought, would do nothing but good for the team. The members of the class of 2007 have been faithful stewards.

I will remember the way in which students in the class of 2007 conducted themselves when representing our Faculty in competitive moots. They were realistic enough to know that they might not win and wise enough to know what winning is the least important outcome of every moot. They rejoiced in the victories of other teams and took pride in what they had learned from their experience. They certainly did not walk out in anger at not winning as did a team from another university in a recent moot. They always had class.

I will remember the valedictorian who, on an evening dedicated to celebrating the success of the class of 2007, cautioned his fellows about the dangers inherent in feeling entitled to the success that their hard work and sacrifice had produced. I would not have wanted to give the next speech.

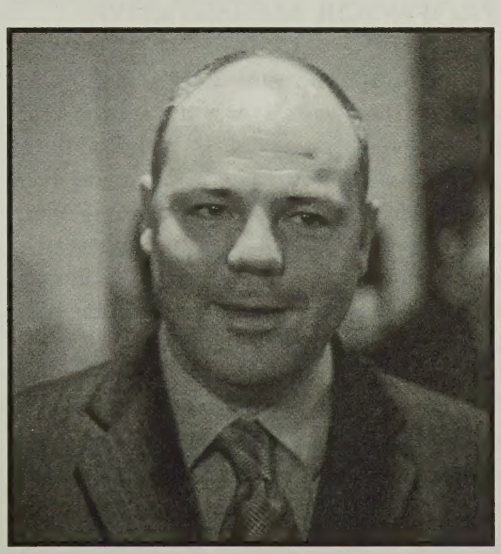
Now it is up to you to be the judge. Did I see just a sparrow and miss the elephant? Or did I see only a small flock of birds and miss the finer achievements of a brilliant, fun-loving and committed group of young men and women? I do not think so.

God bless all of you.



Best Wishes to the Class of 2007

Professor Russ Brown



I was asked, and am pleased, to contribute to the special issue of *Canons* for this year's graduating class.

Unlike other contributors, I will have already covered most of what I have to say about you (defamatory and otherwise) in the toast which you have very kindly invited me to make at your graduating dinner.

I will, therefore, add just this one note. Having joined you among the ranks of newcomers to the Faculty three years ago, I have particularly fond memories of the class of 2007. At the same time, it is worth remembering that your future is something in which the Faculty generally feels it has a stake.

It is, therefore, with a mixture of good will and selfishness that I join my colleagues in wishing you every success in articles and your future in law.

With best wishes,
Russ Brown

Class Of 2007, You've Been Klarred

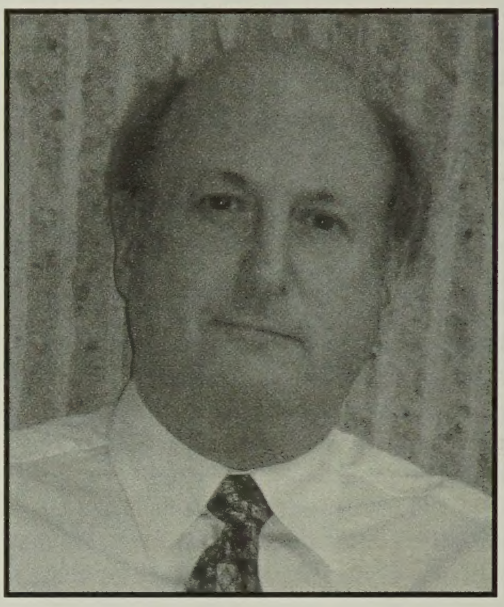
Professor Lewis Klar

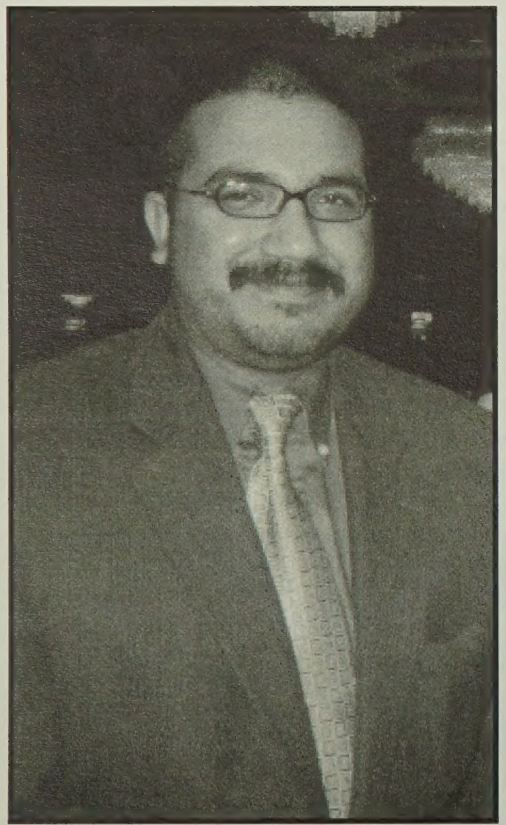
Now that I have entered my "Golden Years", I am finding it more and more difficult to remember things. You know, names, places, where I left my car, and even the time my airplane leaves. Thus, when Vista asked me if I would submit my reflections on the class of '2007 to be published in Canons, I was worried that I would not remember a thing about that class. (In fact, I even forgot that I agreed to do this piece until Vista reminded me just a few days ago.) So I decided to go back and look at the pictures of that class, to see if that would shake any memories loose. And guess what? Memories came flooding back.

There was, of course, the class party of December 2004 (or perhaps it was April 2005, I forget). I had not held a class party at my house for many years, and for some reason, I thought it might be a good tradition to resume. The class of 2007 seemed to me a fun-loving group who would enjoy such a thing. I was right on both counts. Everyone seemed to have a great time, surprisingly even me. By the end of the evening, or should I say, by the beginning of next morning, when the few stragglers finally left, and the damages were tallied up, I realized I had gotten off pretty easily. The house was in fine shape, no torts had been committed (at least not to my knowledge) and I had discovered that the class was composed of a lot of really nice people. It is hard to believe that this group is about to graduate with their law degrees and enter the real world.

It is always difficult to mention just a few people in that class, especially when one's memory is so unreliable. Nevertheless, over the last three years I have come to know some people in that class a little better than I know some others. Whether this is because they stand out (for whatever reason of course), or because they took a few classes from me or have something in common with me, the fact is I seem to know them a little better. I discovered, for example, that Michelle Kunnel's family, lives in southern India. Michelle was kind enough to arrange for my wife and myself to visit with her family, in their very small village, when we travelled to India last year. It made our Indian trip even more memorable and fascinating. Then, of course, there is Ron Huber, whose ever-changing hairstyle and not overly shy demeanour grabs your attention. Dave Jarrett is, of course, one who I will remember: an interesting guy, who likes to banter with me, an activity which I enjoy as well. Sean Moring seems on the surface to be a serious guy, but you do not have to dig too deep, to find a somewhat mischievous sense of humour. There are so many others that have provided me with a chuckle or two, good conversation, and interesting classroom interactions over the years. All of you have made my teaching experience, a very rewarding one. And if my habit of "Klarring" you can sometimes appear a bit off putting, I apologize to you. To Vista, Kieran, Zach, Kristine, Melissa, Travis, Doug, Ryan, James, and everyone else, to whom I have said, "No. That is wrong", in the past three years, I am sorry. It was for your own good (and after all, you were wrong).

I wish you all the best of luck and success!





Congratulations Class Of 2007

Professor Moin Yahya

The academic year 2004 - 2005, was an interesting one. It was my second-year teaching at this law school. Over the last three years, I got to know some of you quite well. Ryan Clements, Gabe Hill, Kristina Koller, and Meredith Hagel worked as my research assistants during the summers. The quality of their work was excellent; I wish them the best in their future endeavours.

I taught many of you a variety of courses. You were all a joy to teach, and I am sure you will have remarkable careers. Whether you endured the pain of my corporations exam, or the drudgery of the seventh round of a moot practice, all of you rose to the occasion and gave your best. I am pleased to have taught you and to have made your acquaintance.

From first-year contracts, where most of my memories of the class of 2007 come from, let me briefly focus on a few names with no slight intended to those whom I do not mention. Dave Jarrett and Ron Huber provided intellectually sound academic commentary as well as comic relief. Vista was the class conscience with her ethical commentary. Kieran Ryan, Zachary Elias, Ryan Lee Chee, Sean Moring, Jonathan Tieman, Christy Lovig, Nitin Bhatia, and DK kept the class lively throughout the drudgery of promissory estoppel and "contract A contract B" analysis. Melissa Sadownik, Nathan Woodruff, David Lynass, and Graham Darling provided the cerebral side of the discussion. And of course, who can forget my stunt-double, Mark Facundo!

During the last three years, many changes have taken place on the legal landscape both in Canada and abroad. The class of 2007, no doubt, will play an important role in shaping the future of the world we live in, and I expect to hear wonderful news about each and every one of you in the years to come. Good luck and God bless you all.

Tempus Fugit and the Class of 2007

Professor Bruce Ziff

September 2004 - the signs of autumn were everywhere: in the falling oak leaves outside the Law Centre, in the crisp morning air, and in the hustle and bustle around campus as a new school year began. I suspect it was a heady time for those in the class of 2007, who were just then beginning their law studies. I certainly remember that time fondly: I was on sabbatical!

By now it must seem as if that was a very long time ago. Quite a bit has happened around the Law School in this three-year interval. Let me take stock of some key changes. My very dear friend James Stribopoulos taught criminal law to members of this graduating class. In 2005, he left to practise in Toronto, and this year returned to law teaching, at Osgoode Hall Law School. James is an exceptional teacher and no doubt is fondly remembered. And so is, I am sure, Trevor Farrow, who is now also at Osgoode. Then there is Milo, who, by the way, is doing tax law in Edmonton and is engaged to be married (!). In 2004, Russ Brown was just starting out; now he is to be recognised at the graduate banquet. Cam Hutchison moved from LRW instructor into a tenure-track position. Lucinda Ferguson joined the Faculty last year. James Muir, George Pavlich, and Steve Penney joined this year. In 2004, there was no Hello My Friend Café.

I am confident that lots has happened in your lives over this time. My bet is that since 2004 you have read (or should I say were assigned) over a 1,000 cases; written somewhere around forty exams, essays, or assignments; passed more than 25 courses; and argued at least one moot. These figures are probably pretty accurate in the main. It is more difficult to predict some other tallies from your law school experience: all-nighters pulled before a test, overdue library fines accumulated, computer meltdowns, regrettable course selections, crappy marks, inexplicable gift marks, useless textbooks, and so forth.

Whatever the quotient, the main point is that you have survived to tell the tale.

I had the pleasure of meeting many students from the class of 2007, whether through classes, mooting, in line at the Gavel, or wherever and whenever. Best of luck at the next stage.

The Bennett Jones Creativity Contest

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Word Limit:
200 Words

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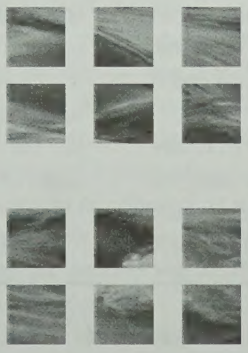

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Get Involved

Caylee Rieger (3L)

When I first entered law school the first month was a blur. Everywhere I went someone was telling me to sign up for something. And believe me I did! However, my most enjoyable experiences have come from playing law sports (since I seem to attend class less and less). Over the last three years I have played many different sports, including volleyball, basketball, outdoor soccer, indoor soccer and curling.

Joining the sports teams was a great way to meet new people in law school. I found myself playing with people I had never met before, sometimes never even seen before. The teams were competitive with players of all skill levels. And most of all, everyone was friendly! We even managed to claim the girls' basketball and indoor soccer title two years in a row (the three-peat is pending).

I also competed in the elusive campus rec "red-eye." The "red-eye" is an all-night marathon of random sporting events beginning around 10 pm and ending around 7 am. We played all types of sports, including ultimate Frisbee, wheel chair basketball, inner tube water polo, sled ice hockey and a variation of wall climbing. You really get to know a person when you spend the entire night together running from event to event. It was exhausting but some of the most fun I have ever had.

Participating in the law intramural sports is a great way to relieve stress, have fun and meet people. You don't have to be skilled and in some cases you don't even need to know the rules (e.g. me playing soccer). All you need is the time!

Chris Bruce (3L)

Many of the fondest memories of my time at the University of Alberta have been as a result of my participation in sporting activities. Events such as Law's A Beach have been instrumental in allowing me to get to know many of the people I've gone to school with.

In particular, being a part of the Law Hockey Club has allowed me to network with past and present Hockey Club members. These social networks have proven invaluable as I worked my way through school. The contacts I've made have helped with everything from picking courses to navigating my way through law firm recruitment.

Beyond the friendship and camaraderie

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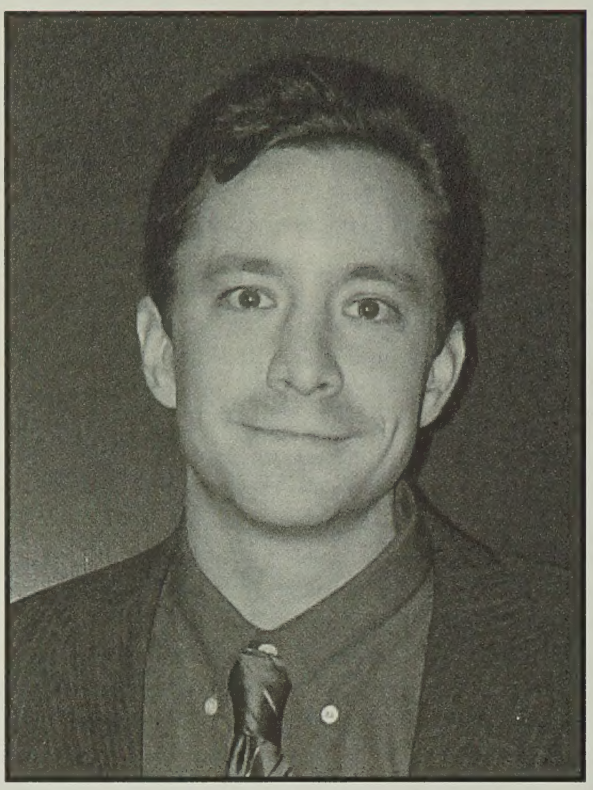
Valedictory Address

Vincent Kurata (3L)



I'd like to speak to you about privilege and entitlement.

There's a peculiar thing I've observed about law students, and I know that many of you have observed it too: you would be hard-pressed to find a law student willing to deny that a lot of people in this class come from backgrounds of relative affluence. Yet few of us are prepared to acknowledge that we, ourselves, are part of this affluent group. We look into the abyss of our student loan debt, we look at our lines of credit, we look at the sacrifices we've made to get here, and we have a hard time equating it with affluence.

But I ask you to consider the financial investment that goes into a legal education. For most of us, tuition alone over the last seven years adds up to roughly fifty thousand dollars. Add to that the cost of books and living expenses, and you have a sum well into the six-figure range.

As an undergraduate, I worked long hours every summer in construction and in the oilpatch; I borrowed money; I scrimped and saved; and I ate an inconceivable amount of Kraft dinner to manage these costs. That was not enough. I needed the financial support of my parents.

Every summer, when working and saving to cover the costs of school, I met extremely capable people for whom a hundred thousand dollar education was not even conceivable. It just wasn't an option.

I know that there are students here tonight who have overcome tremendous adversity, and have made it here largely on their own. They command our respect. But the reason they command our respect is that most of us have had an experience similar to mine – we've worked hard, but we've received a lot of help along the way.

I want to make myself clear: I believe that the people in this room have made it here on their merits. But most of us, myself included, have not made it here on merit alone. In short, we are a privileged group.

There's nothing wrong with being privileged. We don't choose the backgrounds we come from. But our privilege is something we must recognize. If we fail to be cognizant of it, we risk developing an attitude of entitlement. I want to caution you against an attitude of entitlement. It is one of the deepest traps you can fall into, and it is an easy trap to get caught in.

There have been a few instances during the course of my time here when I have smelled the whiff of entitlement. It has bothered me. I'll give you some examples: . . . [omitted for length]

This is an idiom Tommy Douglas often used: "Every man for himself, said the Elephant as he danced among the Chickens." Before we let ourselves get caught in the trap of entitlement, many of us need to realize that we came here as Elephants. And as we graduate, we all need to realize the advantages we are receiving.

First, while a law degree in no way guarantees financial success, it will eventually make many of us affluent in our own right. We must always remember that this affluence is a privilege, not an entitlement. In this context, losing ourselves to entitlement is a poison to our humanity. It focuses us on what we lack and what we think we deserve. It diverts our attention from what we have, from what we ought to be thankful for.

Most importantly, our education has given us an insight into how the machinery of our society operates. With this knowledge comes power: the power of social agency. So I refer you to Spiderman's seminal statement on the law of fiduciary obligation: "With great power comes great responsibility." Spiderman may be overstating the point somewhat. Perhaps our power of social agency is poorly described as "great." But it is power nonetheless. There are countless routes to the fulfillment of the attendant responsibility. Each of us will find our own path. As we travel this road, we must be wary of entitlement. It is insidious. It can seduce you. And getting caught up in entitlement is the surest route to an abdication of your personal, professional, and societal responsibilities.

Having said all of this, there are two things I think I'm entitled to, as are all of you. We have all worked so very hard to be here today. We are entitled to a sense of pride in this accomplishment, and to a night of celebration with those we hold dear.

Congratulations to you all.

Address to the Families - Warren Woo (3L)

Good evening, ladies and gentlemen. I'd like to thank all of the family members of the graduates for attending tonight. I know that some of you have come from quite a ways away to this quaint little town of Edmonton, and as such I promised myself and the Grad Committee that I wouldn't waste your time during my speech. I've now wasted the last 20 seconds, but stick with me. I'd like to say a few words of thanks to some very important people.

To the brothers and sisters, thank you for being extremely patient with your law school siblings. I realize that our endless stressing about moots, exams, papers, and hunting for articling jobs gets inane after a while, but your sympathy is much appreciated (genuine or otherwise). I also realize that Law Show and our jokes about law-related things may not be as funny/entertaining as we think they are, but thank you for indulging us and not telling your friends how lame your brothers and sisters are – you guys don't do that, do you? (awkward chuckle) Ahem…

Really though, you're probably the family members that are the most likely to pretend that

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Toast to the Faculty

Kris Neilsen (3L)

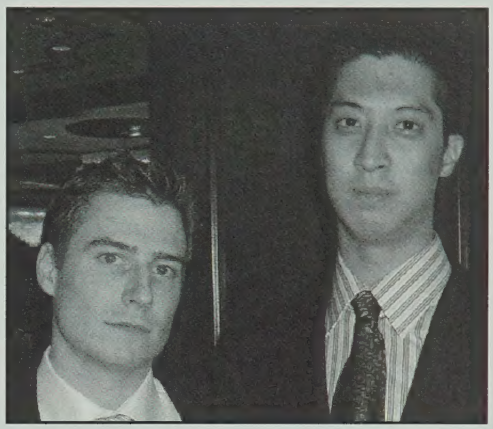
I am very honoured to have been asked to give the toast to the faculty this evening. It struck me though that there might not be many people who would be that willing to do this, as it is the middle of March with paper due dates and finals looming. Around this time some of the language used by some students when talking about their professors maybe a bit too colourful. Not me of course, I... ahem... love my professors.

Reflecting on my time here at the university over these past few years I realized that I, like many others, will have mixed feelings about leaving. It is an enormous privilege and opportunity that we have had to be a part of the law school here, an opportunity that many may never have. Our time at school has brought more challenges than I could have imagined, ones that even now I can barely comprehend. I, for one, will be very happy to put some of this behind me. However, without these difficult times, I would not have had the unexpected good fortune to realize how compassionate the people that I have been surrounded by during these difficult times truly are. Some of the best people I know I have met at law school.

I have come to realize that the faculty is more than a group of professors, staff and students. It is a community that we all belong to. I would like to thank the professors and the staff for creating this environment. It was through your patience and foresight that such a support network has been made available to the students. And it is because the students who surrounded me embraced this idea of community that I have persevered through these difficult times.

Through your guidance, you have taught us what it means to be a responsible lawyer, and more importantly, you have shown us what it is to be a responsible person in society. Thinking back to who I was when I came to law school, I realize just how much I have changed. I realize it is not just what you have taught us about the law, but what you have taught us about how to conduct ourselves in life that will remain with us long after we have left the school. While you have not always had our attention, you will forever have our respect. For what it's worth, we're trying; we're trying really hard to be better people. And from what I've seen from my classmates, we won't let you down. Dwight Schrute said it best, "For it is together that we prevail."

It truly has been a privilege to be a part of this community and something that I will forever cherish. Thank you all for your guidance, patience and support. If you could all please raise a glass and join me in thanking the faculty on behalf of the class of 2007. To the faculty.



Address to the Families

...Continued from page 6...

we're as cool as we think we are, and for that I don't think we can thank you enough.

To the husbands/wives, boyfriends/girlfriends, and AIP's (Adult Interdependent Partners, not apes as in monkeys), thank you now and always for the unbelievable amount of patience and commitment you've shown to each and every one of us by supporting us constantly and dealing with us on a day-to-day during our stressful times, like having 4 closed-book exams in 6 days, or 25-page papers due in a few hours.

The last 3 years of our lives haven't been the easiest for us, and as a result I know that they haven't been easy on you either – all the frustrations and complaining about how we have to study or write papers (side note: it's not undergrad, we probably had to work as hard as we said), and late nights babysitting us as we partied with our law friends. Relationships come and go, but for those of you who have stuck it out with us, words can't really express how grateful we are. Just imagine, in about a month and a half, you'll hopefully be able to enjoy your time together as a couple, maybe go away on vacation somewhere together...it'll seem so serene and normal...

...until articling begins. And yes, this is a pre-emptive thank you so much for dealing with us during that time as well. Trust me, the stress we undergo is indeed very real, and we truly appreciate everything that you do to make it easier on us.

And finally, to the parents – this is clichéd, but there really isn't enough that we can do to repay you for all that you've done for us.

You raised us from when we were but wee babies with big dreams in our eyes, and now some 20+ years later, we're finally at that cusp, where you no longer have to tell other parents that your child is "still in school".

Along the way, you've provided us with love, guidance, caring, emotional, and financial support (hopefully the interest isn't running too high on that loan). Sometimes it was tough love, but without it this graduating class might not have turned out as cohesive as it has – life is about dealing with the people around you, and respecting our parents was really the first step in understanding that.

As much as you should be proud that your kids will become some of the brightest legal minds in this country, be especially proud that you've also raised some of the most creative and well-rounded young adults that I've ever known. Our class has danced, sung, and made people laugh on our way to the top; we've revolutionized what being part of a Canadian law school is all about, and you are a huge reason why we are who we are.

I think I speak for every grad in here when I say thank you. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for all that you've sacrificed and all that you've taught us. We've finally grown up now, and we're ready to face our careers and our future, and you're the reason that they're as bright as they are.

We love you very much, and we'll always do everything we can to make you proud and for you to continue believing in us and believing in all that we can achieve.

On a personal note, and I think every grad here shares my sentiments that my law school years have been some of the greatest years of my life; I owe it to those who love me unconditionally for the fact that I've been able to succeed and be as happy as I am.

I'd like the grad class to raise their glasses in a toast: to everyone in our families, thank you – the love and support you've given us will never be forgotten; please believe me when I say: we couldn't have done it as well as we have without you by our sides. Thank you very much.

P.S. I LOVE YOU MOM!

Unmistakable Collegiality

Vista Pourbahrami (3L)

On the first day of law school I ended up in the wrong orientation group, so I did not meet people from my section. As I was waiting to get my green folder and laundry bag someone, who I later became close friends with, seemed to share my own sentiment when she commented to me: "I have no idea what we are getting ourselves into but I am excited."

The excitement did not wear down in the past three years, and neither has my appreciation for the amazing people in the class of 2007. When asked about their reflections on the graduating class, professors, administration, and other students all echoed that the class is unmistakably collegial. They see collaboration amongst colleagues, mutual respect, and above all, a community. This community is what has made the past three years so rewarding and makes the fact that we are all headed in such divergent directions a difficult realization. This community is diverse, involved, lively and accepting. Within our class, individuals have stayed true to themselves and the climate at the U of A allows for that. For example, an idealist who was warned that law school would make her a pessimist, regardless of how many times she was Klarred or gave an absurd answer in contracts, stubbornly never removed her rosy tinted glasses and did not feel compelled to do so either.

The picture of our graduating class first begins with the highest achievers who on a daily basis proved that academic excellence does not require being blindly self interested. Instead, the smartest of our peers have been the ones who recognize, diagnose and heal irrational states of panic, and dispel the myth that brutal competitiveness leads to success.

When we see these individuals behind the bench or in other positions of high influence we will see our friends who walked the path of success without compromising anyone else's dignity, respect or success along the way.

Our class is also filled with those who always managed to brighten the spirits of their peers. As you read this I am sure you are picturing the faces of graduates who never seemed fazed by any amount of negativity, high school-esque drama, stress or pressure. These are the people who showed up with cookies for everyone merely because it was a Wednesday or who brought you their notes after you had been sick before you even had a chance to ask for them. They are also the ones who always remembered to wish you a happy Persian/Ukrainian/Chinese New Year and really meant it. These peers lead the way for SLS, Law Show and Cuts for the Cure and remind us that a commitment to ourselves and our family carries with it a commitment to the world community as well.

There is a reason this Vancouverite and many others who were not from Edmonton stayed all three years at the University of Alberta and never transferred elsewhere; you just can't compare the culture of our class and our school with anywhere else. Other people and other places have noticed it too, whether by hiring a University of Alberta student or watching some of the videos that have circulated around the world it becomes obvious that there is something very unique about UofA law.

My friends at the University of Alberta have inspired me on a daily basis with their multi-dimensional lives and dedication to much more than the pursuit of financial success. Financially, personally, and academically these three years have been a struggle for many of us but we persevered together and the community that we have created will keep us connected well into our professional careers.

Law School has brought us close and we have shared many incredible memories and grown both individually as collectively as a community. By infusing the energy, intelligence, spirit, social consciousness, commitment and above all the collegiality that became such integral parts of our academic journey into our professional lives, not only will the graduating class of 2007 accomplish great things but will do so in admirable ways. Congratulations everyone, and see you in 2017!

We Were Nerds

Allison Eng (3L)

I suspect that I am not the only nerd in the Class of 2007. In fact, I haven't encountered such quirkiness as I have here in law school since elementary school.

The connection between law school and elementary struck me on my very first day of law school, when Professor Robertson said the word "book" in precisely the same Scottish accent as my elementary school teacher for grades four through six.

Back then, dressing up as Bilbo Baggins was admired, reformatting 5 ½" floppy disks was the latest technological advancement, and the teenage mutant ninja turtles were still brainwashing me into loving pizza. I remember my friend Jonathan, who, having recently discovered dandruff, methodically dusted his head over a black agenda cover every day. Nicholas was a 9-year old composer who arranged music for string quartets, and gymnast Kyle usually sat with his legs spread apart in the splits. Linz wore her combadge to school every day. Jeremy ran like Forrest Gump. We both served Santa together as elves one Christmas. We were nerds (or blithering idiots, as my miserable gym teacher Ms. Stevenson called us), and those were three glee-filled years.

Though Bilbo never came to law school, Bert & Ernie and the Ghostbusters nevertheless made exciting appearances at major events. 5 ½" disks are long gone, but each time I open PuTTY to access the Internet, the command prompt reminds me of those disk reformatting days.

The ninja turtles continue to influence my food preferences as a university student. I remember a particular criminal law make-up class with Professor Stribopoulos, when, in the middle of a sentence, he peered up from his notes and cried, "Is that pizza?" just like Michaelangelo, as stacks of pizza were delivered into our classroom.

I chuckle when I picture my friend Jonathan dusting his dandruff onto Professor DeCoste's usual all-black attire. And among our class are several accomplished musicians like Nicholas, some of whom joined the law show band and arranged all of the songs in law show. Like my

...Continued on page 13...

GRAD 2007

LAYOUT BY MARIANA OLIVEIRA. PICTURES BY JON MARYNIUK, NITIN BHATIA, KARIN STREDULINSKY, CAYLEE RIEGER, ALLISON ENG, & VISTA P.

Grad 2007 Formal

Congratulations Grad 2007

Fashion Review

See next page for Fashion Critiques by Professors Buckwold & O Byrnne

Faculty Fashionistas Pronounce on Grad 2007

Professors Shannon O'Byrne and Tamara Buckwold

Thanks to Allison and Vista for inviting us to rate the fashion IQ of the Law Class of 2007 and offer a few up-to-the-minute image tips to this crop of almost-lawyers. The 8 photos we have here offer a representative sampling of our raw material.

So, to start...What can you say about guys in suits? Happily, these sartorially savvy gentlemen gave a pass on the Manhattan bouncer look with classic pieces that would make Harry Rosen proud. Though they *could* have turned an edgy corner or two. Think do-rag. Think serious bling and hair weaves. Think Johnny Depp (you know, that *totally* smokin' pirate look).

But what about the women? More to say here.

We're so glad Allison ditched her rumoured plan to knock off Jennifer Hudson's Oscar disaster of a vampire-inspired shrug/emergency reflective vest. 'Nuff said. Instead, she chose the always classic black gown with a simply elegant shawl and great toe cleavage. But for higher impact, we'd suggest *much* stronger footwear to anchor the look. Boots are completely *now*. Lots of designer choices, but Harley's our fave.

Larissa earns a fashion gold star in a glittering Cleopatra-esque ensemble. Sadly, the hair is a little plain. She missed a great chance to show off the latest in millennial tresses – that so-chic segmented look... bootlace accents... fabulous bows. We love it! Maybe next time.

And what about Lori? She dumped her specs for this formal event – *so* right on! They would have clashed with her sinuous, silver-spangled, sophisticated silhouette. But while lovely, her delicate necklace just doesn't pack a 2007 punch. Less is definitely *not* more this year. Take a leaf from our book...please!

Vista's violet verve brought a visible splash of vibrant colour to the Crowne Plaza's muted hallways. Colour is *definitely* in. But monochrome is *out!* She needs a hat to pull in a contrasting shade. A splash of St. Paddy's green would have transformed merely elegant into memorable.

Melissa..... The bodice of her shimmering indigo sheath was perfectly accented by a row of glittering gemstones. But the bag....all wrong! This year's fashion trend says, "*GO BIG OR STAY HOME!!!*" Fashion forward femmes know the knapsack goes everywhere!

Well, that's it for this year. Way to go ladies and gents. You did us proud (mostly)!

We Were Nerds

...Continued from page 8...

classmate Kyle, who went on to claim victory for Canada at the Olympics, our class also includes competitive athletes in sports such as rowing.

Just as Linz' uniqueness remains in her combadge, one of us sported a suit and blue shades every day in first year, ready to be beamed up to a law firm at any moment. If our class had a Forrest Gump like Jeremy, I'm afraid I didn't notice; however, it did seem like one of our 2Ls, acting as a Dean's list-er in this year's Law Show, attempted to sprint his way ahead in school, or at least throughout most of Edmonton.

As for Christmas, it turns out that several colleagues in my class thought that Professor Gall was Santa; one person even brought cookies (by George) and milk (to go) to test their theory. Having previously worked for Santa with Jeremy, I knew that Gall wasn't the real deal. And finally, I did find my Ms. Stevenson here in law school, who ably reminded me of my incompetence in the field of legal history. Still, I will remember these years with gladness.

'Cool', 'popular', and 'trendy' don't properly describe the Class of 2007 that I will remember. On the other hand, while 'nerdy' seem a bit strong at first, I think it suits us. We like quirky, we 'heart' our profs, and we like being ourselves. We were nerds, and that will never change.

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3 Years of Law School: Fun Flies While You are Doing Time

Kanchana Fernando (3L)

Things I hated about law school:

- the temperature in the building (freezing in the winter, boiling hot in the summer)
- the weird smell in the women's washroom on the 1st floor (what is that, anyway? Uh - on second thought I don't want to know)
- the career services emails (enough to put the fear of God/Allah/Buddah/take your pick into you, and I especially enjoyed that they were sent on Fridays, as way to make your weekend extra special!)
- the spotty wireless connection (how are we supposed to play Diner Dash online if we can't get wireless on the 1st floor?)
- differential tuition (don't even get me started!)
- recently, the asbestos removal/construction (by the way, does this mean we've been exposed to an asbestos-ridden building for the past 3 years? Is that why I have a perpetual chest cold?)
- law students complaining about non-law students (the library is run by the University - so they are allowed to be there – so get off of your elitist high horse!).

Okay - enough of the hating. Things I loved:

- Law Show - (obviously – the best thing I have ever been involved with and has led me to the realization that I may have missed my calling as an event planner)
- the fact that U of A Law Students are so involved in the community, often to the detriment of their grades (SLS, Women's Law Forum, Law Show, just to name a few)
- the frequent guest speakers (again, obviously - free lunches!)
- some of the professors (because there were some classes that actually made me think - and profs who seemed to put work, time and effort into teaching, which I appreciate)
- the parties (First Friday Back - the Law Show cast party - the End of Year party just to name a few)
- working for the Health Law Institute (because you get an office in the library where you can lock up your stuff!)

I also love that I only have 40 days to go as of the writing of this article (yes, I'm counting down the days).

And finally, I've loved meeting and becoming friends with all the people - a law school is only as good as the people in it - and I think our school is perfectly adequate, don't you?

Congrats to all the grads! And good luck to the 1Ls and 2Ls.

U of A Law. How Shall I Praise Thee?

Ian Moes (3L)

Your concrete walls are rough to the touch. Your fluorescent lights are glaring. Your lack of electrical outlets frustrating. Yet thankfully you are much more than a building.

In contrast, you are defined much more so, though not completely, by the people that walk, and have walked, through these concrete corridors. From the professors to the staff to the students, we are an eclectic bunch – each coming from a different background but here with a common interest in the law. Together we are a part of what comprises U of A Law.

As graduating students, we will have spent three years (more or less) as a part of you. Eager to study law we arrived. Now, after having our fill of CANs, FABS, the Gavel, Carbolic, the CBA and the LSA, we are now on the eve of departure, eager to apply what we have learned. You have impacted us. We have impacted you (hopefully much more so than fresh graffiti in the bathroom stalls). Friendships were formed, relationships created, knowledge communicated, opinions voiced, and viewpoints challenged. Sounds like a good three years.

Now the hard work begins – full-time employment as a lawyer. A professional juggler you might say. But fear not, friends, for we are U of A Law graduates. We have been trained within an history that has produced a multitude of successful lawyers. Keep your nose clean. Work hard. Represent your clients well. Remember where you came from. Don't forget to give back.

U of A Law. An incredible place. Incredible people.

Get Involved

...Continued from page 5...

of being on a team and winning together are also the stories that emerge from social events. The stuff of legends includes the Rugby Vegas Trip and the Law Hockey Alumni weekend. It is during these trips that you truly get to know your teammates and share experiences that last a lifetime. Personally, my experience was capped off this year when we were at the peelers and the waitress serving our alcohol was actually a girl I went to junior high with.

When reflecting on my law school experience, I can unequivocally say that my experiences being part of a team have been the most rewarding part of law school. They have provided me with friendships that will last long after I leave.

My Reflections on Law School

Ryan Clements (3L)

My reflections on the "law school experience".... It seems too soon to be writing something like this. To be honest, I had relatively few preconceptions coming into law school. Sure I had heard all the stories – the workload, the competition, and that terrifying first year experience known as the "Socratic method" – but I was really curious whether my experience would be any different. What I eventually encountered, however, was a collegial student body and affable faculty far removed from the popular "Paper Chase" depiction. From the first day I arrived at this school I have been impressed,

not only at the intellectual calibre of my fellow students, but by the many sincerely good people that I met.

I have many fond memories of the last three years - it is hard to know where to start. I thoroughly enjoyed the camaraderie of my first year section, and was pleasantly relieved when I discovered that I was not the only student at times in a property law stupor of

thought. I'll always remember Professor Gall's anecdotes and fondness of chalk, Professor Klar's sense of humour, and Professor Hutchison's riveting lectures on the McGill guide. Upper years brought with it new challenges, opportunities and blessings including the birth of my second child. I'll never forget the group study sessions and the late night pizza deliveries with the Corporate Securities Moot Team. I feel privileged to have associated with so many faculty members and sessional instructors who not only knew the law but who also genuinely cared about the welfare of their students.

Law school has been challenging yet rewarding, stressful at times but undoubtedly fulfilling. It has been hard work but something that I will always look back on with a sense of satisfaction having chosen this educational path. Perhaps what I cherish most from my law school experience are the many relationships, both with faculty members and other students, which I have developed over the years. I recall Dean Percy, in an orientation speech, encouraging us to take advantage of the opportunities to meet new friends and cultivate new relationships, suggesting that the bonds formed in law school would last throughout our lives. Looking back I can see the wisdom in his advice.

Time has gone by fast for some, not so fast for others, but in the end I think we all appreciate our time at this faculty. So to my fellow graduating students I simply say congratulations on a job well done. It's been a pleasure to be your colleague, and I look forward to the exciting years to come.

3 Year Journey

Dale Weston (3L)

When I was accepted to law school at the U of A, I'd only been to Edmonton once or maybe twice. I'm from Calgary, and my dad hates Edmonton so I was never allowed to visit; he would drive around the city limits to avoid going through (I think this is a hockey-related hatred). When I drove up for the March open house before first year, my old friend David gestured to a particularly ugly stretch of Calgary Trail and said, "Welcome to your new home". I took a good look around and started crying (seriously, it was really, really ugly). Overall, I was feeling a little worried about this whole U of A business, until I walked into the law centre and saw someone wearing sweatpants and a cowboy hat. I love sweatpants, and I love wearing cowboy hats, and that was enough for me. I figured this law school thing would be okay.

Originally, I thought that I could base this article on a list that Laura Gill and I prepared during Christmas exams of first year which documented all the stupid things we did during our first semester of law school. The list isn't really appropriate for inclusion, now that I look at it, but no reflection on my time here is complete without mention of the considerable time Laura and I spent obsessing about Dance Mix '94 and that song by the Streets that goes, "Dry your eyes, mate", planning the matching outfits we were going to wear to Scholar's on Wednesday (velour tracksuits), saying things were 'ridonkulous' and talking about 3L boys. I also can't neglect to mention the amount of time and money Kristin Engbloom and I have spent at the Sugarbowl, and how we didn't really discover how great it was until around the time we should have been studying extra hard for first year exams. I loved first year – our biggest concern was knowing every possible person at every possible party and drinking as much beer as was absolutely possible. There have probably never been sillier girls in first year.

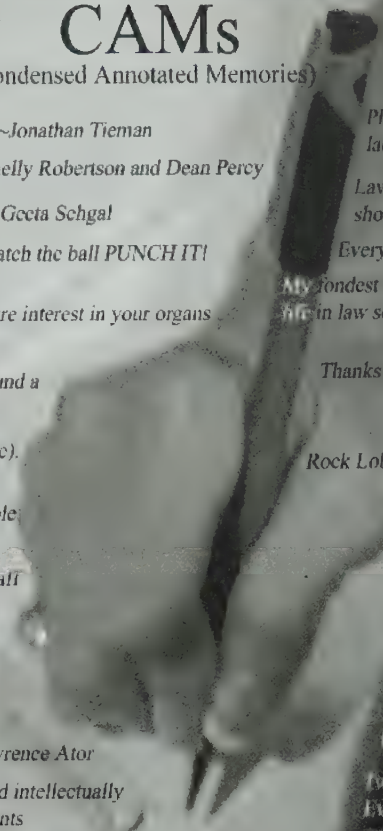
Second year was not as fun, but I've been assured that it never is. Mostly we did a lot of schoolwork and worried about getting jobs. Although the day that two of my dear friends showed up to Evidence and were still drunk from the night before (they smelled like a distillery) is a happy memory for all of us.

Third year has been busy. From the moment I arrived at the U of A, the student involvement within the faculty has been one of my favourite things about it, and I spent lots of my school time this year being part of that. The first half of my year was consumed with directing Law Show, which was amazing and stressful and I'm so glad that I did it. The Law Show directors were supportive, hilarious, and were surprisingly up for doing things like skits about dead birds and incorporating chicken wing moves into their dances. The last few months have been all about planning the graduation banquet. For all of those who would like to complain, we chose the salad with the "gravy" dressing because it is nostalgic and many members of the grad committee love it.

Life has changed a lot since September 2004. I was worried that law students would be a bunch of weirdos; instead, I've met some of the best people I've ever known. I swore that I'd never date any guy who was going to be a lawyer; alas, I met one at the first FABS and now I live with him. And I was certain that I'd be heading back to Calgary, but instead, I'm staying in Edmonton (Dad's not thrilled but he does not hate it here anymore).

CAMs

(Condensed Annotated Memories)



One time, Canons people accosted me outside the Crowne Plaza ballroom to write some message. It was awesome ~ Mark Facundo

I'll always remember the Alliance dominating one whole row of tax~ Nitin Bhatia

It has been a blast. You haven't seen the last. Soon it all will pass. Congratulations to the class. ~Jonathan Tieman

During first year finals dancing ad singing at the top of my lungs saying "I like big butts" with Shelly Robertson and Dean Percy walked by and just shook his head ~ Lori Nash

Professor Gall's chalk allergy. ~Geeta Sehgal

Law Games in Sherbrooke, Quebec – Rob Connolly as goalie in soccer = ASTRO BOY – don't catch the ball PUNCH IT! ~Western Allstars

1L. Property law. Professor Brown. "Well Jason, while TECHNICALLY possible, selling a future interest in your organs would be illegal because it is unethical. Ethics? -Jason Thomas.

Professor Law's reputation for being formidable and stern was confirmed when Rob Connolly found a shirt at the Salvation Army that read "I survived Foundations with Professor Law." ~Section 3

1st year parties at Professor Pringle's and Professor Klar's (who we guilt tripped into throwing one). ~Ron Huber a.k.a. "the suit guy" from first year.

I remember when I met my soul mate Mark Facundo, I thought "wow I wonder if any other people in law school have heads that size" ~ Warren Woo

The closeness of section one and the unforgettable parties a Chez Pringle and Klar! ~Kim Hardstaff

"Speaker-dancing and defending pole-related rumours (Kieran is a stripper)" ~Christy Lovig

Thanks to everyone for making these last 3 years so much fun, I'll miss you all!! ~Lainie Chan

Gabe making kissy faces at Kunal during his LRW presentation –Paul Messner

John Rauser hard numbered the paragraphs on his LRW factum moments before it was due~ Lawrence Ator

My memory is the sacrifice of my wife Meghann. The last 3 years have been fun, challenging and intellectually stimulating. Without her support however law school wouldn't have been possible. ~Ryan Clements

"Freedom consists not in doing what we like, but in having the right to do what we ought" (Pope John Paul II) ~Larissa Gowda

I remember working on my first LRW assignment and being very scared and then someone helped me out. ~Geoffrey Edwards

Being dressed up by Vista and Melissa in a bathrobe and mud mask and going as "anyone's guess" for first year Halloween. ~Brian Man

Factum due date: Ameen speaking in his accent by 2pm. Back then, that was a sign ;) ahhh, scholar's... ~Robert De Guzman

Scholar's in first year feeling like the set of "Cheers": it was where all the servers knew your name! ~Melissa Gorrie

My most memorable moment of law school - "Vinnie, Pick Vinnie!" to be a hypothetical sperm donor ~ Christina Cu[illegible]

"Do not go where the path may lead, go instead where there is no path and leave a trail." (Ralph Waldo Emerson) ~Shannon Kleinscroth.

I have been at universities for fifteen years, but the last three were the most intense. Fun, but tough. ~Yoko Azumaya

Favourite job ever – criminal shift SLS during summer 2005. I will never forget all the fun, gorgeous and smart people I got to know and laugh with! ~Olga Kyselyova

The D&C Builders Skit in Professor Yahya's contracts class ~Moriah McLeod Shaw

The Law Show Friday night cast parties -- nothing beats some Madonna, the Pirate Way, a few (!) drinks, and some mad dancing with the coolest people ever! ~Heather [illegible]

3 unforgettable years! May you all enjoy the best life has to offer! ~Sean Moring

Jeff & Rob go to Las Vegas…and if their apartment is covered by tinfoil, glasses of wine, juice, and infrared rays when they get back they call the police. Instead at Caylee & Liz. ~Caylee Reiger

Playing hockey on the womens intramural team was fun, especially the year we needed help lacing the skates!! ~Christina Wallace

Law Games in Sherbrooke, Quebec - "Sometimes it's better just to drink the beer." Rugby: Don't shoot beer out of the boot...RUN!!! ~Sandra Malcom

Every single Decoste lecture - waving, digging, pointing, smoking and all. And Pegasus. ~Adrian Ing

My fondest memory is deferring my conflicts exam to bring my baby Aliec into the world. You can have a life in law school and make some great friends along the way. ~Koren Lightning-Earle

Thanks it's been great ~ Melissa Sadownik

The Boyle Street Monkey Shuffle ~Kim Melnyk

When Angus ordered pizza for our crim make up class ~ Kanchana Fernando

Rock Lobster ~ Rob Connolly

Professor Hutchinson, 1L Post-Moot. After having to answer 8 questions from the Judges, I asked why me! - "I told them to." D.K. Fraser

"Finally participating in Law's a Beach and taking down the "confident" 3rd years and Sharp being too drunk to remember!!!" ~Michael Ipeto

One time Vista asked me to send her a memory from law school, but I couldn't think of a good one but I am thankful to have been part of the Section 1 "Daddy Row" ~Patrick Laycock

Vietnamese lunches, Saturday morning group study sessions, pointless LRW assignments, always buying CANS and then realizing they're worthless, and finally being finished! ~Matt Olson

Two hour lunches in first year. First we would procrastinate for as long as possible in the Gavel. Eventually we would wind up in the library on the 2nd floor, all at one table, all with our books open, all diligently "reading"...yet somehow no one ever turned a page! ~Karin Stredulinsky

"The longer I remain in law, the more I see that the gospel of DeCoste rings true" ~Christopher Wong

2006 UBC Rugby Pub-Crawl - walk off b/n the Pretty Boys, Diet Coke Dave and UBC's model... bring it on! ~Rugby Team Grads.

The gavel moment that spawned the idea for a "feed Vista fund", Learned Hand's Giant Carrot Law Firm and screaming "we're done!" down the halls when the Constitutional law exam was finished. ~Vista Pourbahrami

"At my first FABS, after a couple beverages I had to use the bathroom. I was followed by a future LSA president. I learned never to use the law bathroom or go to a law party without an adult again." ~Ryan Lee Chee

Field Trip for Military Law: troops repelling from helicopter in -40 wind-chill just for our benefit! ~Tachelle Cote

"Third year Advocacy with the Justices. Examination for Discovery and Tara Murphy asking me how I could be a gardener if I didn't know how to read, and me replying 'I know my way around a ho'". ~Kunal Nand

Having the distinct honour and privilege of repeseenting the law school at the Gale Cup and Laskin ~ Mark Ammann

Going out for beers at the end of exams was always great fun! Everyone was so relieved, happy to be finished with the semester, and ready to live like a human again and forget all the long nights we were chained to our desks studying. ~Graham Darling

I remember the new vocabulary I learned from 1L Crim Law: "I went woosh" and "horizontal dancing." ~Laura Klassen Bullock

Special Thanks to Jessie Bachinsky & Kerry Greer

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My 3L Life

Mike Sharp (3L)

Well, it's been quite the ride: LSAT prep, Law School applications, LRW, Career Day, Articling Week, and now graduation. The central dogma of 'scare you, work you, bore you' has rung true in my experience at the University of Alberta Law School.

My 3L contemporaries are largely divided into two groups: the "I can't wait to get out of here/I'm sick of classes" people vs. the "school is way too much fun/am I really going to have to wear a tie everyday?" people. I'm certainly part of the latter camp. How can you be sick of classes when it's ultimately your choice of whether to go or not?

There are two maxims that I've been trying to model my life after this last year of law school: "Live every day as if it were your last" and "Hard work is its own reward." Initially, these two ideas may seem incompatible, but there is an ideal time and place for each.

Live every day as if it were your last

This is a very common and old idea and I don't mean for it to come across as morbid as it sounds. Impending death doesn't loom constantly in my mind, but often I am faced with opportunities that will never come by again. This year I've done my best to take advantage of these opportunities while they're afforded to me. Law school has been a great place to try new things, meet new people, and have a lot of fun doing it. Sometimes I feel myself trying to do too much and getting a little burnt out. Anytime I felt that I may be getting too old or tired to attend every single function, there would always be someone older (and/or balder) living large and doing a monkey dance at the party to set a good example.

This type of living does have its consequences, however. Often I've found myself putting off of responsibility and getting myself into some tight spots, both financially and academically. This is when my second mantra comes into play.

Hard work is its own reward

For those of you who know me, and in particular my class attendance record, you may realize that I'm not necessarily talking about course work here. Although after putting in those productive 15 hour work days in December and April, I generally feel pretty good about myself.

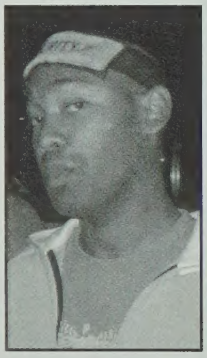
Believe it or not, I actually do put in some work at the law school during those months in between exams. Student group involvement around the law school has kept me quite busy and I get more satisfaction in a job well done organizing a student function or participating in a team sport than I would pulling out some B variety grade.

It is important to remember that there is no one you need to impress but yourself, and if you're doing something for acknowledgements from others, you may be waiting for a long time and end up feeling unfulfilled. In my law school experience, the bulk of law school academics is really about the individual. You don't have a responsibility to anyone but yourself. You are in control. If you screw up, no one else is effected. That sort of freedom and flexibility is quite attractive and seems to have kept my stress low. (Please note that I neither participated in a competitive moot, nor took that Advocacy course I keep hearing about.)

Now, about to enter the world of private practice, I am beginning to see the familiar dogmatic cycle start again. I'm certainly scared to death of articling and expect to be worked to death for years 2 through 5. I doubt that I'll ever get to the point of being bored with my career, but if it does happen, I hope those days will be filled with many rounds of golf.

So You Graduated Law School...So What? So Everything.

Ryan Lee Chee (3L)



I hear the 2007 grad was a lovely affair or pleasant gala. Not sure which one ranks over which, but whatever, it was something. In fact, word on the grapevine is that our valedictorian speech was gutsy, different and forced inner reflection. Upon hearing such a description I wanted to know the theme of such a speech. The theme…"Just because we are graduates of law school, we should not have a sense of entitlement. We are no better than anyone else."

Now wait a goddamn minute…

You're telling me that as a law school grad that I am equal to just anyone. Haha, yeah sure Vinnie the Valedictorian, you and me are equals, I'll remember that next time we compete for a position on the Queen's Bench.

Look everyone, it's time for Ryan the Real-Layer to lay some more real on you. In this world there are winners and losers, and at times we fluctuate from winning to losing. And usually we are lied to when we are losing. For example, remember in grade 6 when those vicious girls made fun of your tacky hair, or when those guys ignored to pick you for a sports teams? Remember as the tears flowed down those cheeks and your mom said those kids just didn't realize how special you were? Well, your mom lied. You weren't special, you really did suck. I submit my first piece of evidence, your class picture.

Now at the time of your triumph, you have some wet blanket saying law graduates should not see themselves as entitled winners but privileged successes. So we should not see our success as an entitlement but our success is a privilege. Bah! I say "Fudge that!" (actually Canons won't let me use the actual phrase but use your cursing imagination).

I contend that as law grads you should feel entitled. You are not equal to your former peers of the human race. The minute we formally graduate we join a select group that is a slightly higher form of life than the rest of society, but two levels below Jesus – possibly three, I don't know what Jesus has been up to lately. But I'll tell you this, Jesus made sure to get his law degree, that's for sure. He wasn't going to be limited to the career options of his dad - a carpenter. He was a go-getter, I mean by his 30's he went for the title of Son of God, that's like Jr. Vice President of an international conglomerate. Not bad if you ask me.

We have all worked hard to make it to this point, have we had help along the way? Probably. But you know what? There are a lot of people who come from affluence that are doing a whole lot of nothing with their life. Am I entitled to more than that person? I think so, and if you disagree feel free to forfeit your possessions to me. At least I'll appreciate them.

Anyhow, the main point being emphasized in the speech by our intellectual class leader is that it is incumbent with our privileged success that we should use our power of social agency responsibly. In fact and I quote from his speech, "With great power comes great responsibility", a noble sentiment quoted from the comic book Spiderman. But really, am I supposed to listen to Spiderman's uncle? He didn't even have a law degree.

Law Guy: Nitin

Interviews By: Mariana Oliveira (2L)

Name: Nitin Bhatia
Undergrad: Business
Hometown: Edmonton

What has been your favorite memory of law school?
My favorite memory in law school would have to be when I proudly raised my hand to answer a question in tax class only to be heckled with comments like "Choke! Choke!" by my entire row of so called friends…and then of course, choking.

What are your Summer Plans?
Kris Neilsen and I are going for a romantic getaway to Thailand, Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam…one of us is going to get kidnapped…I have a feeling he is of more value than me (that's all I've learned to say in various South Asian languages thus far) so I'm feeling pretty safe right now.

What will you do with your first pay cheque?
Let's see, what does $45.72 really buy you nowadays? I'd like to purchase my own copy of the Back to The Future DVD set and perhaps some heel protecting pads.

What was your favorite social event during your law school career?
Law Show 2007 RATT party was a blast.

If you could thank one person in law school for their support, who would it be?
I'd have to say our VP Social Mr. Warren Woo. Every time something difficult arose over the past 3 years he somehow always made me feel like I'd topple it. He also can reach things I can't so he's good to have around.

Who or What inspired you the most during law school?
The movie "A Few Good Men" always seemed to do the trick.

What will you miss the most about U of A?
The first week of each semester when members of the opposite sex dress up real nice and do their makeup. Hub mall creepin shall live on!

What is one thing you will not miss about Law School?
The remaining 12 weeks in each semester.

What is one thing people outside of law school would be surprised to learn about law school?
You can get through it without learning a thing…look at me.

Words of Advice for 2L?
Make some funny videos for law school events, let the newly created tradition live on. And although I should have taken my own advice I would like to emphasize to you that you shouldn't stress about "articles" because you will all get one whether it's this summer or next March.

Words of Advice for 1L?
Get involved in SLS, Law Show, LSA, Grad and the works…law school is a lot more tolerable if you are having fun within it.

Favorite Grad Party Memory?
Arms in the air…"For it is together that we prevail!"

Law Girl: Sandra

What has been your favorite memory of law school?
That would have to be a tossup between dancing in law show and Law Games in Sherbrooke, Quebec where we combined with UBC and UVIC to form the Western All-stars and take home the National Volleyball Title.

What are your Summer Plans?
Showing and competing with my horse a few last times before I close that chapter of my life.

What will you do with your first pay cheque?
Invest it in the stock market so I can start to build up some equity.

What was your favorite social event during your law school career?
Carbolic…every year!

If you could thank one person for their support who would it be?
My parents for all their support over the years.

Who or What inspired you the most during law school?
Probably upper years…I respected them for what they had accomplished and appreciated their help and advice.

What will you miss most about Law School?
KARAKOE, Scholars, Organized social events, intramural sports, and spare time.

What will you miss the most about U of A?
The people.

What is one thing you will not miss about Law School?
The gossip.

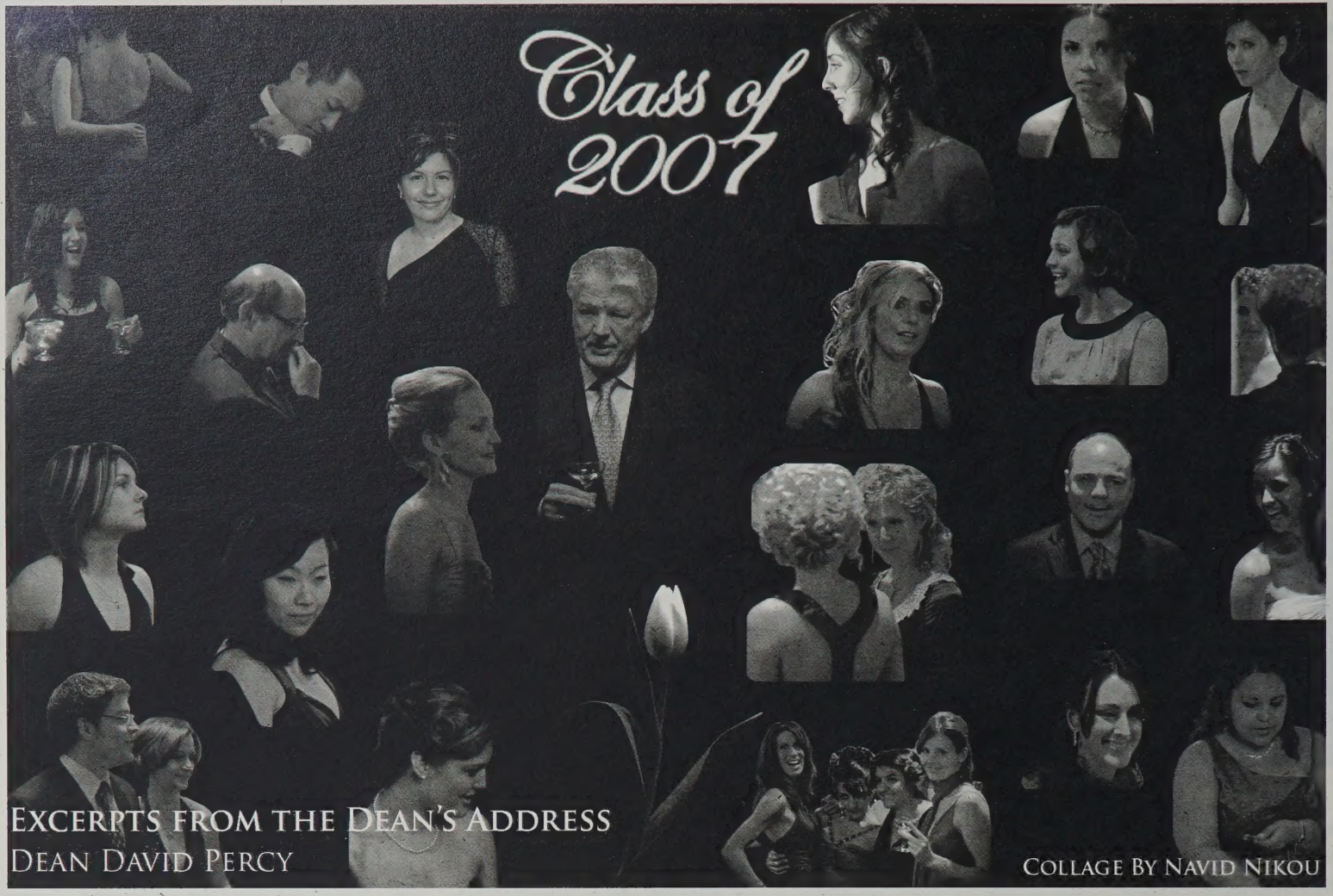
What is one thing people outside of law school would be surprised to learn about law school?
What a secluded world it is and that it is just like high school, complete with our own lockers, private lounge, and stalker guide.

Words of Advice for 2L?
Enjoy next year!

Words of Advice for 1L?
When we were in first year we were told our reputation as a lawyer began on our first day of law school and it is very true. A reputation will stay with you for the rest of your life so start cultivating it early…and please respect the sanctity of the Reading Room!

Favorite Grad Party Memory?
Vinnie's speech as Valedictorian was amazing and superbly delivered.

Sandra Malcolm
Did not complete undergrad
"The country" north of Calgary



Excerpts from the Dean's Address

Dean David Percy

Collage By Navid Nikou

In a few weeks time, you will leave behind the convivial halls of Law School and most of you will enter the legal profession. The profession offers the opportunity of an exciting and rewarding career and gives you the chance to do a great deal of good. What are some of the things you can think about to ensure that you have a fulfilling career?

Career Options. Your Law degree gives you a key that can unlock many doors in life. If experience is any guide, in 10 years time about 30% of you may not be practising law in the conventional sense. At your 10-year reunion in 2017, the majority of you will be in the midst of an exciting and fulfilling legal career. Others will have chosen different options, not just in law, but perhaps in politics, public service or business. How can you maintain the flexibility to let your Law degree take you ultimately in the direction you want?

In meeting alumni over the last five years, I have occasionally heard one of our graduates say "I would really like to get out of the practice of law and try my hand at something else." If I respond, as I usually do, by asking "Why not do it?", the answer is invariably "I cannot afford to." These words suggest that it is not the legal profession that prevents people from changing courses in their lives, but their own financial choices. A number of our graduates have used the key of their law degree to enter a gilded cage and, once inside the cage, have made financial choices which have the result of throwing their key away.

If you have any doubts about this, there are accounts that senior partners of major law firms have been heard to say of associates: "he (or she) has bought a BMW and a big house, now we have them for life." Your law degree does give you many options and you will soon, after many years of education and relative penury, be earning a significant salary. By all means, enjoy reaching a state of financial independence. But you may wish to consider whether the financial choices you make early in your career will limit your options by the time of your 10 year reunion.

Ethics. I certainly do not mean to suggest that many of you will not enjoy legal practice. Indeed, in my own experience, legal problems are rarely dull and it is both exciting and challenging to be involved in their resolution. But it is vital to remember that, however you choose to use your Law degree, you must now ensure that your conduct meets the highest ethical standards at all times. This is an absolute pre-requisite to professional survival and, equally importantly, essential if you are to maintain your self-respect.

Courtesy. The legal profession is intolerable unless you are unfailingly courteous at all times, both to other lawyers and members of the public. Courtesy and civility are absolutely the best antidotes when you encounter unreasonable behaviour on the part of others. There is nothing more disarming when a person who engages in uncivil behaviour is met with a firm civility. The maintenance of a courteous attitude, and a refusal to be drawn into any type of slanging match, will also significantly reduce the level of stress in your own life.

Community Service. Many of you have exhibited a strong sense of community throughout your Law School careers. Indeed, a sense of obligation to the wider community has been a hallmark of your class and is ingrained in many law students. You are much more likely to have a successful and fulfilling professional life if, despite the many demands on your time, you block out in your calendar some time for service to the community and activities with friends and family with the same zeal that you allocate time to clients and files.

Conclusion. The members of the Class of 2007 will soon graduate from what is undeniably one of Canada's finest law schools. We have been delighted to have you as our students. I hope that in the future we can count on your support, that you will act as ambassadors for the University of Alberta law school, spread the word about your experiences and remain involved in **your** Law School.

On behalf of the entire Faculty, I congratulate you on your achievements so far and offer our warmest good wishes for the future.